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CASES

OF THE

SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

OF

VESICÆ LOTURA

IN THE

CURE OF DISEASED BLADDERS

BY JESSE FOOT, SURGEON.

The Practice of VESICÆ LOTURA is thus far deciſive: For Caſes of diſeaſed Bladders, which have hitherto been deemed fatal ones, it is a direct cure. It brings off Gravel lodged in the Bladder, and promiſes fairer than any former mode, upon the moſt obvious grounds, to diſſolve the ſtone within.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. BECKET, PALL MALL.

MDCCXCVIII.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO

GEORGE BIGGIN, Esq.

AN ACCURATE PHYSIOLOGIST,

AN ACCOMPLISHED SCHOLAR,

AN EASY GENTLEMAN,

AND

A STEADY FRIEND;

TO HIM,

WHO IS THE ORNAMENT

OF KNOWLEDGE, AND HUMANITY,

THESE CASES

ARE DEDICATED, BY

HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT,

THE AUTHOUR.

CASES

OF

THE SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

OF THE

VESICÆ LOTURA,

&c.

OBSERVATIONS.

THE subjects which I have hitherto treated upon, have required from me, the examination of a great variety of authours, in order that I might appear, at least, to have handled them, with due care and attention; not to note as new, what had before been registered, and not to carry on enquiries without diligently tracing and concatenating former practice with that I

hoped to improve; or at least it has always been my intention by writing, so to do.

The only book to which I shall now refer the reader, upon this subject, is le Dran's Observations in Surgery; and it is to two pages alone of that reſpectable authour, that I am to confine my present obligation, for having thus introduced into practice, one of the most important and valuable acts of surgery, which the History of that Art has ever recorded.

Non fingendum, aut excogitandum, sed inveniendum,

says Bacon, and that is very true. But to what purpose is it, for the wise to invent, if what they invent be not applied? This neglected case which I shall copy from le Dran, is the only case that I know of; and the successful treatment he gave it, is the only practice of the sort that I ever heard of. But if there should be any more cases recorded, where the practice has been repeated, and after a similar manner, I should esteem myself obliged to any one who points them out.

CASE BY LE DRAN.

OBSERVATION LXXX.

OF A DISEASED BLADDER.

[Translated from the French.]

"THE bladder may be susceptible of many different diseases, and often very difficult to be known in their beginning; nevertheleſs, it is only by this knowledge that a surgeon can properly undertake to perform a cure. We may say in general, that it is the property of diseases in the bladder, to create pains almost equal, during the whole time the urine is diſcharging; whilst the pains that solely depend upon a stone in the bladder are only felt with the first drops, if the stone is small, or when it is in the neck, and with the last drops when the stone is large.

On the 23d of May 1725, a man of fifty-five years of age, was received into the hoſpital, who thought he was troubled with the stone. He could not retain above three or four ſpoonfulls of urine, which obliged him to make water every instant, and in the evacuation felt ſevere pains, which began with the first drop,

and continued to the last. As the patient complained of no other symptom that could denote it was a stone, I was in doubt whether he was attacked with that disease or not, and presumed that his bladder was grown horny, or at least disposed to an inflammation, since he drank plentifully of wine.

To be better satisfied of his condition, I sounded him carefully and found no stone. I ordered him to be bled four times, prescribed him a regular diet, and emollient ptisans with barley, marsh-mallow roots, and linseed, to correct the acrimony of the urine if possible, and by this means to relax the fibres of the bladder, which I plainly perceived were contracted, since in sounding him at a time when he had a strong inclination to make water, I did not find a drop.

Pursuant to this indication, I injected a strong decoction of marsh-mallow roots, morning and evening. This root leaves a mucilage in the urine, which fixing to the sides of the bladder, defends it from the acrimony of fresh urine, and relaxes the fibres in the nature of an emollient cataplasm. A patient cannot be sounded morning and evening, without running the hazard

zard of inflaming the urethra and neck of the bladder; therefore to avoid this inconvenience, I introduced the Catheter in the morning, and drew it out at night. In using the injection, I desisted as soon as the pain felt by the Patient convinced me, that the fibres of the bladder were sufficiently distended; and left that quantity of it in, for a quarter of an hour, more or less, according to the Patient's necessity of making water.

In the space of a fortnight, the bladder, which at first could contain only two spoonfulls of injection, resumed by degrees it's natural capacity, which I knew, by the quantity of injection admitted without causing pain. To the decoction of marsh-mallows I added barley-water and honey of roses, and lastly, barley-water with the vulnerary-water. The Patient left the hospital in a month's time perfectly recovered."

The treatment of this case by le Dran,† was conducted in the only possible manner, that human

† Henry Francis le Dran, Member of the Academy of Arts, Surgeon to the King of France, Senior Master of the Surgeon's Company, Eldest Surgeon and Demonstrator of Anatomy at the Hospital La Charité, appointed by His Majesty's Patent, Anno 1724.

human wisdom grounded upon long experience and faithful observation could suggest; and with the properest Instrument that was then known, if we except the flexible Catheter by Heister. The judgment and the art of this refined Surgeon, of this modest and accurate Physiologist, were fully competent to the most perfect intention. And there ought therefore to be some very strong reason assigned, why there should have been but this solitary case found upon record; especially when it is recollected, that so many cases demand a similar treatment, and if that similar treatment be omitted, such is the real value of this discovery, that no other method can be a substitute for it. Of this I mean to be understood as speaking positively.

There ought therefore, to be some reason assigned, why this practice established by a man of such eminence, has been ever since discontinued. It was in my opinion owing principally, to two causes.

First to the necessity there then was of introducing, either the Metallick Catheter, or the Flexible Catheter by Heister, as at that time there were no better instruments known.

The

The Metallick Catheter was too difficult an instrument to be introduced by every body, and too painful to be borne; too difficult to be used in common practice, seeing that the urethra very frequently is also contracted: and the Flexible Catheter invented by Heister, never could have answered the purpose. If judgment decided, that the plan of injecting the bladder was correctly right, yet judgment despaired of success from want of proper instruments, declined the attempt, and yielded to the impracticability of the design. Every Surgeon was not a le Dran. Every Patient was not in a state, to endure a Metallick Catheter twelve or more hours within a diseased bladder, supposing that the attempt to pass it was successfull. And it is not every Surgeon that seems disposed to revive a dormant practice, however useful; He rather looks to follow the example of others.

It is I think impossible, in a book so constantly read, that the case could have been overlooked by every body until now. It must have been given up, it must have been declined

declined in the very face of success beyond all possibility of contradiction. A case painful as the Stone, and that never could have been cured by any other method, then or now known ; and a case fully and completely cured, by the unequivocal process of injecting the bladder.

The want of a better Catheter than the Metallick or the Flexible one by Heister, might have been a cause for the practice having been discontinued for a former part of the time, since this case was published by le Dran. It might have been owing to necessity. But I fear that modern practice, since there has been a choice in the Elastick Catheter, may stand rather self condemned ; seeing that by that very instrument, every former difficulty is obviated. It is not without contrition, that I painfully deplore the recollection of a great variety of cases, which would have undoubtedly succeeded by this treatment, that found no relief from any other, and that are now beyond the reach of human power. My atonement must rest, on my finding out the right method at last, and the crime of past inattention must be redeemed by future expiation.

piation. It is better late than never. It will soon be seen, how simple and how successful the process is now conducted; and that the Patients even can perform it on themselves. That which has been dreaded is now coveted; that which was deemed impracticable is now made familiar; and that which every Surgeon could not atchieve, is now undertaken by every Patient; and herein consists the true value of the remedy.

The second cause arises from want of discrimination. This cause is stated by le Dran also, as has been seen in his introduction to his case. The symptoms of obstruction in the urethra, of affections in the bladder arising from various causes, and of affections in the kidnies, all present themselves to those not conversant in treating complaints of this nature, without so much seeming difference, as to enable them to form any true criterion upon them; or to separate and distinguish one affection from another.

In the Fifth Edition of my "Critical Enquiry into Diseases of the Urethra and Bladder," I have particularly noticed this observa-

tion; and I have there pointed out, for the first time, I believe, that it has ever been observed in print, a leading principle, by which a diseased bladder is always to be detected, and distinguished from any other cause by which it might be otherwise confounded. It is this: that at no time the bladder can hold more than a certain portion of urine, and of course that at no time, more than that portion (if so much) can be ever discharged at once. For example thus: suppose that a Patient, for a series of time, has not been able to evacuate more than two spoonfulls of urine, upon any effort; and suppose that such has been the habit without any exception, for two or three months; suppose that mucus comes away with the urine, and at the same time, the Urethra has been carefully distended by bougies; in that case, I should have no hesitation in declaring, that the capacity of the bladder was contracted, and that it's contraction was just in proportion to the diminished quantity it would contain, from a comparative view formed with a sound bladder. Whereas in all other possible affections of the bladder, or within the bladder, there will be times where it is not contracted,

that

that the full contents of a capacious bladder can be evacuated. This is a distinction *a priori*; but injecting the bladder will readily decide the question *a posteriori*, for just so much as the bladder will possibly hold, can be injected; and by the fluid being measured when it is evacuated, any further doubt about the nature of the case is completely removed.

The first Case I am about to produce, was given over by me; and I had actually dismissed it as not to be relieved, when the Patient beseeched me to give it a week's longer attention, and before he called again, I had resolved to try this method: as soon as I saw him, I put the case of le Dran before him, and he readily submitted to the application.

This Case will be found to be a Case of very long standing, progressively going on, without the least prospect of getting rid of it's own calamity, by process of constitution, or by remedies found in the shop of Apothecaries, or by the most constant attention of a suffering Patient. It had commenced in the year 1788, it had availed itself of the advantage of opinion of John Hunter, at a

time when his fame was at the highest celebrity, it had I may venture to assert, every advantage of recovering in the most temperate, rational and strictly correct Patient, that can be found in any society. This must be taken into the account, as it shows that nothing retarded the recovery of the Patient all this while, but the want of a right remedy. That he favoured his condition as much as possible, and that he did not, like many Patients provoke an aggravation of symptoms, by his own indiscretions, neither before, nor after he had submitted himself to the care of his Surgeon. And although I have nothing to do with what Patients bring upon themselves, before they apply, yet with all the anxiety and zeal natural to the profession, in the consideration of a man of honour, it is better and more for his interest to be without an irregular Patient, than with one.

Dr. Whytt in the "Medical Essays and Observations, published by a Society at Edinburgh," has made the following observation.

"As authors have sometimes been accused "of framing histories to support a certain "theory, or raise the value of some favourite "medicine,

" medicine, I thought it might be proper to
" add the gentleman's own attestation of the
" truth of what has been above related."

I perfectly agree with Dr. Whytt, as to the spirit of the question. But as I know the delicacy of Patients, and that the idea of names being published, would deter many from applying, I think it would be more decent and prudent not to publish names. That delicacy must be observed. And although there are some who chearfully permit their names to be published, in attestation of their cases, yet I judge it more prudent that names of such, even, be suppressed ; as the publicity of them, might deter others from submitting their cases, from fear of an advantage being taken of them, against their inclinations. It is upon this principle, that I have accordingly formed the resolution not to publish the name of this Patient, even although I had his permission, and the case is drawn up by himself, reserving at the same time every document for the inspection of those whom it may concern, either upon the ground of curiosity or justification. But the above arguments may be rather considered as general,

than

than particular to the following Cases, as there is not one of them that cannot be attested, not only by the Patients themselves, but by many more witnesses of a most respectable description; and such are their establishments that I trust I have from them, every thing to hope, and nothing to fear.

CASE

CASE I.

THE HISTORY OF THE CASE OF H. A. Eſq. COPIED FROM HIS LETTER.

DEAR SIR,

" YOU wish me to send you a statement of " my case, from it's commencement to the pre- " ſent time. I ſhall give it you as correctly as " I can.

" It was in the ſpring of 1788, that I was " advised to apply to the late Mr. John Hun- " ter, on account of a difficulty in discharging " my urine, which I had for ſome time labour- " ed under. He passed an instrument into " my bladder, and pronounced my complaint " to be a ſpaſmodick affection on the neck " of the bladder. He directed me to take " hemlock pills, which I did to the number of " more than four hundred. Finding no benefit " from them, and strongly impressed with the " apprehension of a stone forming, Mr. Hunter " at my request sounded me, but without " making any discovery of that sort. At " length, finding the hemlock pills, instead

" of

" of doing me any service, begin to affect my
" nervous system, having increased their num-
" ber from two to eight in a day, I quitted
" them and their prescriber together; these
" pills being the only attempt he made to-
" wards my relief.

" I went on for some years after, ignorant
" of the true nature of my complaint (as it
" has appeared since, Mr. Hunter himself
" was also) taking palliating things.

" At the end of April 1796, I put myself
" under your care. You passed bougies into
" my bladder, and when you had arrived to
" that stage, as to be able to pass the larg-
" est, you began to enquire, if the symp-
" toms were at all abated. That was not the
" case. The true nature of my complaint
" was yet to be ascertained. You had a con-
" sultation with Mr. Edward Ford. You
" sounded my bladder again, and discovered
" no stone, but found that the instrument
" could not sweep freely within the bladder.
" You recommended me to keep the Ure-
" thra open with Bougies, and to live upon a
" diluting abstemious diet calculated to pal-
" liate a condition, you seemed to despair of
" curing.

" curing. In short you dismissed me. But
" on my requesting to call upon you again,
" at the expiration of a week, and begging
" that you would in the mean while, reflect
" upon what more could be done for me, you
" then shewed me the case by le Dran, and
" we readily resolved to try the same means.

" To afford as clear an idea of my case
" as I possibly can, I conceive I should de-
" tail it, by stating what my symptoms were
" before the injection was applied to the
" bladder, and what they were after.

" My symptoms before, were an almost
" continual inclination to urine, in the day
" time, and in the night, rising for that pur-
" pose from the bed, seven, eight and nine
" times, with seldom any thing like a con-
" tinued stream of urine, the volume small,
" and the quantity from two to three spoon-
" fulls, and that with great uneasiness. From
" the first of my finding the difficulty of
" urining above mentioned, my urine was ac-
" companied with mucus; and it generally
" was of a strong red colour, mostly turbid,
" sometimes ropy, and it had continued thus
" for many years. Another formidable symp-

" tom was growing on me apace, a constant
" state of irritability, and which the most tri-
" vial incident, notwithstanding my own men-
" tal precautions, would frequently provoke ;
" feeling at those times great irritation and
" uneasiness in the region of my bladder.
" Walking on wet grass, and being in damp
" rooms, would bring on a strangury.

" Such, Sir, was my state as nearly as I
" can recollect, previous to the operation of
" injecting my bladder. Time by neglect,
" and by the want of proper treatment, of
" course gradually reducing me to a worse
" and worse condition.

" The account of my subsequent condi-
" tion, will happily for me, be more com-
" fortable and pleasing. My urine has been
" no way perturbed or mucus discharged,
" since March last. I retain it much longer
" in the day time, and I rise, upon an ave-
" rage three times in the night only. The
" quantity of urine discharged in the night
" at those three times, is generally about three
" half pints. The quantity my bladder would
" hold when you first began to inject it,
" could

" could not possibly ever amount to three
" ounces, with mucus included. You en-
" creased the capacity of my bladder, so
" much by the operation of injection, as when
" you left off this time twelvemonth, it would
" contain nearly fourteen ounces. And I
" have by injecting myself occasionally since,
" rather gained upon that quantity, although
" I have purposely discontinued it for more
" than a fortnight at times, without finding
" that I lost ground. The irritation on the
" bladder, I have greatly though not entire-
" ly subdued, by a rigid adherence to your
" directions of lessening my quantity of
" animal food; and I have experienced, that
" if at any time I forget myself and indulge
" that way, I am punished.*

" Thus, Sir, I have endeavoured to fulfill
" your wish, in detailing my general case,
" and my present condition; by which it
" will appear, that I have received very con-
" siderable benefit, from your mode of treat-

 " ment

NOTE BY THE AUTHOUR.

* I exacted this mode of treatment from this Patient, because he naturally was a robust man, had a good appetite, and a tendency to inflammatory attacks. He was aged 58 Years.

" ment ; that my life is rendered more com-
" fortable, and that I have a prospect of my
" condition being still more improved, by at-
" tending to the excellent system you have
" prescribed. Should the detail be eventual-
" ly of any benefit, it will make me more
" happy ; and I am well assured it will not
" render you less so.

" I remain with much esteem,

" Dear Sir,

" Your obliged and faithful Servant,

" H. A."

NOVEMBER 24th,
1797.

To Jessé Foot, Esq. Dean-street, Soho.

CASE

CASE II.

A GENTLEMAN from India residing at Hammersmith, applied to me, in the spring of 1797, for a complaint in his bladder. His symptoms were, a constant solicitation to urine, a discharge of two or three spoonfulls at a time, and more mucus along with it, than I had ever been in the habit of seeing, except in one case before. His urine before it had settled, looked like whey. The Patient was about 50 years of age, stoutly made, but harrassed by a hot climate and disease.

Independant of the bladder affection, he had a fever of a remarkable description, and which he told me was called in India, the *jungle* fever. It came on somewhat like an English intermittent, in point of symptoms, regularly at every full and new moon. At each of those periods, he was confined to his chamber, for four days. His pulse was quick, his head ached, his stomach was sick, and his complexion was yellow. This debilitated him exceedingly, and kept him so much down, that

that he was not able to profit from his native air.

I went to Hammersmith but once to see him, and that was purely on purpose to examine the condition of his urine. To satisfy myself, whether pus or mucus was the sediment he described, as being constantly observed accompanying his urine, and I had the satisfaction to find that it was the latter.

From this time, although he told me that bougies would do him no good, I began to introduce the bougie to satisfy myself during the use of it, and to draw conclusions from observation, during the time of using it, what might be the nature of his complaint. And during the use of the bougie, as I suspected, from the nature of his periodical fever, that most probably his liver might be affected, I availed myself of that opportunity of giving him pills of quicksilver for at least five weeks. I found the return of his fever gradually declining, his pulse beating more slow and more firm, his strength encreasing, insomuch that he was able to walk to my house from Hammersmith, which he could not do at first, and from this time his health

began

began to mend apace. I then desisted from the mercurial course, and exchanged it for an infusion of columbo root and steel.

Notwithstanding this favourable alteration in his health, the bladder affection continued the same. The bougies had, before this time, completely opened the passage of the urethra; but the constant solicitation to urine had not abated in the smallest degree. Mucus was still discharged, the portions of urine were as diminutive, and the irritation as great as ever.

This complaint had commenced many years ago. And my Patient informed me, that he sought in India for remedies in vain, that he had been in the constant habit of using bougies, that he had given himself up as lost when he sat out upon his voyage home; and that his rest in particular was so much disturbed, that he had not known for years what it was to enjoy a comfortable night. He was particularly attacked about eleven o'clock at night, and had a constant solicitation to urine till two or three o'clock in the morning; as if the irritation went on, as long as there was any urine secreted, from what he had drank during the day, and then the parts became

came quiet. During these paroxysms, he had sometimes no command over his power of urining.

I had purposely kept back from the Patient any intention of applying the Vesicæ Lotura, until this period of the case, from two motives. The one to open the urethra well, lest when I attempted to introduce the Catheter, I might be disappointed. And the other to watch the nature of the disease, to see if it changed at all by time, by bougies, by fomentations, by clysters, by opiates, and by the remedies which I had used for his intermitting fever.

Finding at length, that the case of the bladder was confirmed in my mind beyond all possibility of a wrong prognostick, I imparted my intention to my Patient, and was fortunate enough, which gave me great satisfaction, to be able on the first tryal, to introduce the Catheter and inject the bladder. The Vesicæ Lotura had not been applied more than twice, before the Patient declared his confidence in the remedy. I was at first, not able to leave more than half a wine glass full in the bladder, and that remained not longer than

than a minute. Whereas in a few days, the Quantity received was encreased beyond expectation, remained much longer, and when evacuated, the Patient described his sensations in the region of the bladder, to have been more soothed, since the commencement of the operation, than he had ever experienced before, from the first attack of the disease.

He repeated his visits every day, and every other day, very anxiously, until we arrived to the pitch of injecting at least, twelve ounces at a time. At this period of the case, I invited Mr. Edward Ford of Golden Square, during the process of injection, to see it. And shortly after, as I missed the Patient for a week, and he being at that time provided with the means of injecting himself, I sent my nephew to enquire after him, when he returned for answer, that he was so well, as not to need to come any more.

CASE III.

A GENTLEMAN of the Excise Office, went down to Harrowgate, for the benefit of it's water, but was compleatly disappointed. He there met a friend of mine †, and it was in consequence of his recommendation, that he applied to me, in the spring of the year 1796.

He was about 56 years of age, tall but not corpulent, of a ruddy complexion, not that sort indicative of high health, but such a one as those have, who have been at sea, and have lived freely; when the hands and the face have a tendency to a livid appearance; a sort of weather-beaten face. I questioned him as to his manner of living, and though as I suspected, spirituous liquors did make a portion in his drink, yet I am inclined to believe, that he did not take it to a degree of intoxication; and that he did not abuse his constitution more, by that privileged poison, than other moderate

† John Sergeaunt Esq. of Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

moderate subjects do, who have yielded to the spontaneous habit of constantly taking it, or who have been driven to it, as a substitute for wine, since such a duty has been exacted upon that most necessary article of life; and since not even a drawback upon it, has been allowed for the poor, in a work-house. Nothing is more common, and nothing can be more prejudicial, than for persons afflicted with bladder complaints, to take to gin; and nothing is more common, when once they have taken to it, than for them, to like the disease for the sake of the remedy.

This Patient's complaint, when I first saw him, was a frequent discharge of his urine, over which he rarely had any command. Sometimes it flowed from him as he walked about, involuntarily; and sometimes, when he knew his bladder was charged with a largish portion, he could not urine at all. At other times, his urine would suddenly cease to flow, during the act of urining; and upon these last occasions, his efforts would be encreased, and his pain acute; profuse sweats would burst forth; and if he was then taking his walk, as he was constantly in the habit of doing from the office, to his house at Islington,

he was forced to lean for some time, where he could find a place, and by shifting his posture, he generally succeeded in obtaining an evacuation, and consequently procuring ease.

The symptoms of his case pointed out so plainly the nature of his complaint, that it did not require much consideration to determine it to be, either gravel or stone, but most probably the former. Upon introducing a bougie of a middling size, I found the capacity of the urethra extremely narrow, towards the neck of the bladder; and the Patient then informed me, that he frequenly found clots of blood come forth with his urine. I ascertained another fact by enquiry, namely, that the capacity of his bladder was not lessened, or at least to no great degree. Thinking that the first thing to be done was to distend the urethra, I began the case with passing bougies for that intention, with recommending a fomentation of the decoction of poppies to be applied in the direction of the urethra, and with prescribing, then, a decoction of bark with elixir of vitriol to be taken frequently in the usual doses, but soon changed it for lime-water.

My

My Patient went on thus till the month of August, without the smallest abatement of symptoms. Having about this time experienced the advantage of the Vesicæ Lotura, I concluded that it was expedient at least, to throw lime-water directly into the bladder, instead of sending it circuitously there, through the constitution; and more expedient than by the short passage even, invented and designed by Dr. Darwin. In order to be able to effect this, I passed the largest bougie I could get, to procure a passage for the Catheter, as I had hitherto been foiled whenever I attempted to pass it.

This idea opened to me a very enlarged train of reflexion; and my reading an excellent paper by Dr. Whytt, in the Medical Observations of a Society at Edinburgh, encouraged and enhanced the value of it to that degree, that it was impossible for me to resist the design. Nothing besides the want of proper instruments was the obstacle, at the time Dr. Whytt wrote his paper, to the Practice then; and this has been the obstacle ever since, to this self evident process. A Surgeon ought always, in order to reason fairly upon what has been done by former Surgeons, to ascertain

ascertain what instruments were known at the time they published their cases, and by that determine the degree of improvement at least, so far as instruments have a concern in the advancement of the art. Dr. Langrish has encouraged the same idea, but to his success also, the want of proper instruments was the obstacle that rendered the practice impracticable, at least upon the human bladder of a male subject.

I succeeded in passing the Elastick Catheter, but not on the first attempt, injected lime-water diluted with warm water, and found what I was not at all surprised at, that the bladder would contain and retain more than eight ounces. I went on thus not every day, for more than a month. The bladder was able to hold the injected fluid, and the Patient departed with it.

During the practice of the Vesicæ Lotura upon him, the Patient regained his continence of urine, and scarcely ever called without bringing with him, fragments of gravel which he had discharged, and some with the greatest difficulty, of an irregular figure. I recommended him still to keep his urethra

open

open with the largest bougies that the urethra would admit, during the process of injection. Whilst he was injecting, it very frequently happened, after the bladder had been fully distended by the repetition of the injection, that the water would stop all of a sudden; by then passing a bougie to dislodge the piece of gravel from the neck of the bladder, it would flow out again, until the bladder was empty. It was concluded upon the cessation of this symptom, that there was no more gravel to come away; and this was judged to be a proper criterion to decide upon, when the process ought to be discontinued. For as the bladder could be compleatly filled, and repeatedly filled, the pressure of the full bladder in the expulsion of it's contents, constantly brought the gravel within, to the neck of the bladder, when it either stuck fast, and thereby stopped the current of fluid, or came forth through the urethra with the current.

These equivocal symptoms having totally ceased, I discontinued the injection, leaving it to the Patient to keep the urethra open with bougies. For as I could not take upon me to say, that more gravel may or may not hereafter

hereafter be formed, I thought it right for him to be prepared, with the only possible power of procuring the discharge out of the bladder, of whatever extraneous substance might have been hereafter collected within it. And as this gentleman left me perfectly satisfied and at ease, I rely upon it, that if he had ever since experienced any return of his complaint, I must have heard from him, or have seen him again.

I shall not take upon me to affirm, which of the three remedies I applied was the cause of dislodging the gravel, restoring the continence of urine, and giving ease to the Patient. If enlarging the passage of the urethra could have singly done it, an opportunity for that, was given for months, without any visible alteration, and whilst at the same time, the Patient was drinking lime-water. Whereas the fact is, that it was not until the application of the Vesicæ Lotura had been repeated, that the Patient either regained his continence of urine, or evacuated the gravel from the bladder, or found ease.

CASE IV.

A GENTLEMAN of very high eminence in literature, aged 66, who had enjoyed as good a share of health, as ever fell to the lot of any man, was attacked in the spring of the year 1797, with frequent solicitations to urine, attended by strong sensations in the glans penis, and great pain during every act of urining. He had at that time, a temporary lodging in St. Martin's Lane, and applied to Mr. Winfield, a reputable apothecary in the same street, who treated his complaint in a judicious manner, and under whose care, the Patient flattered himself, that he was getting better.

In consequence of this, instead of returning to his own house in the country, to nurse his condition, the Patient paid a visit to a family, in the vicinity of Streatham; and finding there, that the symptoms had not subsided, but on the contrary were rather aggra-

vated, he applied to a medical gentleman of that village, who gave him remedies to the best of his judgment, and who promised him, that his painful affections would soon decline, and that in a few days, he would be well.

This prognostick not proving to be exactly verified, he took rather a sudden departure from the family where he was, and retired to his own house at Chiswick.

On his arrival there, he applied to his friend Mr. Curtis, a very respectable practitioner of that place, who after administering what medicines he thought proper for the case, and finding that they did not avail, recommended to the Patient, to have a bougie passed up the urethra, the better to ascertain the true nature of the complaint.

The Patient, not from want of confidence, but from dread, did not then adopt his Surgeon's advice, but deferred from time to time, that piece of salutary admonition. Such instances are very frequently seen, where the opinion given by one medical man, will be rejected by a Patient, which, when insisted upon by a subsequent one, will be adopted. This

is

is done, without reflecting, that no man who is denied the means of his own treatment, can either possibly confer a solid benefit on his Patient, or come off from the case with credit to himself.

Under the dread therefore of every thing like a Surgical operation, this Patient went on, in a state of suffering during the summer, until the month of August; when I paid him my first visit at Chiswick. Having had the honour of knowing him, previous to this attack, I had the mortification of finding my friend somewhat changed by the constant pain of disease. But his urbanity, spirits, and manful deportment were as conspicuous as ever; or perhaps he then exerted himself, and displayed his powers, to shew, that he was not easily conquered, with a friend by his side.

Mr. Curtis not being present, this was only a visit of observation. I found that his disease was a constant solicitation to urine, attended with great pain, and an affection of the glans penis, never evacuating but the smallest portion, not exceeding a spoonfull at a time, and consequently the repetitions amount-

ing to more than forty times, in the course of the day and the night.

After having thus far informed myself, I requested that he would put by his urine in glasses, and agreed to meet Mr. Curtis, when we would pass a bougie, and further judge on the true nature of the case. On our meeting, we found the urine of a wheyish cast, charged with an uncommon quantity of mucus. We passed a bougie, found an obstruction in the urethra, but was able to pass a bougie of a middle size into the bladder. We recommended a fomentation of decoction of poppies, to the region of the bladder, and an opiate at bed time; and that the bougie should be repeated, encreasing gradually its size. Soda water was also advised, as part of his drink. The Patient soon acquired the knowledge of introducing his own bougie, and soon arrived to the power of passing one of the largest degree.

When these remedies had had their fair play, without much seeming benefit, the act of urining being as frequent as ever, and the quantity at a time, as small as ever, we then recommended a system somewhat of the tonic

nic nature, to bathe the perinæum in cold water, in which bay salt was dissolved, and prescribed as a medicine, infusion of Columbo root with acid of vitriol. Thus we went on, without any abatement in the number of times of urining, although there was an apparent diminution of irritation and mucus, until the middle of the month of November. My Patient then came to town, and the process of Vesicæ Lotura was then commenced.

We were fortunate in introducing the catheter at once. The fact was, that he did it himself, better than any body else could do it for him. Whenever he failed, as it was sometimes the case, I could not then succeed. The first application gave a momentary pain, what was injected was not retained a minute, and the quantity the bladder received was not half a wine glass of fluid.

We did not inject every day, rarely more than four times a week. The urine soon came away free from mucus, the irritation of the glans soon subsided, and the times of urining soon became reduced. I mean to be understood, as positively asserting, that before this Patient had been injected twelve times, not a trace of his

complaint

complaint was remaining. His appetite, his rest, his healthful portions of urine, and his healthful periods of urining, were compleatly restored within three weeks, notwithstanding we continued on the injection, to within a week of Christmas day.

After the first three weeks, he could go in a coach into the City, remain there two hours, and walk back again to St. Martin's Lane, without urining. He could pass a night without urining more than twice, he who could not, three weeks before, without urining at least, ten times, or more. This was effected without the least adventitious aid of medicine, without even an opiate, nor was he during the time, restrained in his diet.

The celebrity of this gentleman has so far attracted attention to his case, to his sufferings, and to his consequent recovery, as to render it quite unnecessary for me, to say any thing more in corroboration of it, than the plain detail of this history has already pourtrayed.

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